[3rd November 1931

(c) the reason why new books were introduced this year in spite of retrenchment;

(d) whether he has consulted private managers of elementary schools or at least the Missions, their opinion and also the financial strain such changes entail;

(e) whether all the proposed books are approved and published; and

(f) whether the respective District Educational Officers and the Director of Public Instruction were consulted before the change?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*f*) The Government have not the information. It has been called for.

Economic Condition

Closure of rubber estates in Ernad taluk and consequent unemployment.

* 586 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector of Malabar reported to Government regarding the existence of acute distress among the workers who owing to the closure of some rubber estates in Ernad taluk, in Malabar, have been placed out of employment;

(*b*) what action Government have taken or propose to take to alleviate distress;

(*c*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House the report of the Collector of Malabar and the Board of Revenue on the matter; and

(*d*) whether Government are aware of similar conditions prevailing in the areas where tea estates exist?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As a result of his visit to the locality, the Commissioner of Land Revenue and Settlement recommended that the work of repairing and improving the Kalikavu-Wandur road should be put in hand so as to give work for the distressed families. The proposal was sanctioned by the Government.

(*c*) No. The Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by doing so.

(*d*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as stated.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know if the Government have formulated any policy to deal with the question of unemployment in the country?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"As far as I know, they have not formulated any policy."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur:—"May I know whether the proposed Kalikavu-Wandur road will give sufficient work to the distressed people in the locality?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"Yes; there are no reasons to indicate that it will not be sufficient."